

Friends Bulletin

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Contradictions and Paradoxes

The relationship between Hong Kong and China is very odd indeed and full of contradictions and paradoxes. China could at any time, at will, end the anachronism of Hong Kong as a British Crown Colony. The British are here on sufferance and in many ways act accordingly. On the October first celebration of the Chinese Revolution the China Bank, the Chinese theatres and the many China Products Stores were decorated from ground to rooftop with lights, red flags and Communist slogans with no indication of official disapproval. When the Double Ten Nationalist celebration occurred on October tenth, Nationalist flags appeared on the resettlement estates and the squatter shanties on the hillsides. There were official warnings that no Nationalist flags were to be flown in the New Territories in sight of China and reports that some flags were removed by police.

Hong Kong authorities take great care that none of its residents or visitors, unless authorized, get too close to the border with China. Boats are warned to stay out of Chinese waters and no one is permitted to go to the top of one of the hills in the New Territories that overlooks the border. On the other hand, Chinese authorities from the mainland do not hesitate to land in the New Territories in their search for defectors. When this occurs no attempt is made by the Hong Kong police, Chinese also by the way, to persuade the intruders to leave. A recent report in the daily press told of a junk from the Mainland pulling alongside a Hong Kong Police launch in Deep Bay and demanding the right to come aboard to search for defectors. The Hong Kong Chinese Marine Police told them they would have to go to the nearest Police Station to apply for that permission and according to the account, the junk withdrew. The whole episode has a definite Gilbert and Sullivan touch.

However, it would be a mistake to think it is all a charade. Almost a hundred members of the local Communist Party are

still in prison following their conviction for offenses during the 1967 disturbances. In spite of this, the local Communist Party seems to have orders from Peking to cool it. And on the other side four of their own militiamen have been arrested by the Communist authorities, on the other side of Deep Bay, and are to be tried for the kidnapping and murder of three fishermen from Lau Fau Shan in the New Territories.

During the Pope's recent visit, there was a small scandal over the fact that Hong Kong had refused visas to Catholic bishops from Taiwan who planned to attend the Pope's Mass here. The reason for this ban was illustrated at a recent conference of Asian bishops in Manila. There a resolution against external aggression was altered to one supporting the struggle against atheistic Communism reportedly on the insistence of Taiwan's Cardinal Yu. In the light of that publicity perhaps the Hong Kong ban had Vatican approval. It was expected that if the Pope made any gesture toward Peking it would be a conciliatory one. In any event, his talks here steered clear of China entirely.

If Hong Kong is permitted to continue as a British Crown Colony it is only because it serves China's interest to have it so. This is especially true since in her quarrels with Russia China has had to absorb repeated jibes on the subject. Colonialism is anathema to Communists and Russia constantly pressed home the obvious contradiction between China's revolutionary professions and her acquiescence in Colonialism on her very doorstep. China's interests served by Hong Kong are first of all economic. Forty per cent of her foreign currency is said to come through Hong Kong. Secondly, political interests are served since Hong Kong is an open door to contact with any other part of the world. In some cases these two interests combine, as in the claim by some Southeastern Asian governments that the subversives in their country are financed by funds from Hong Kong. If China con-

tinues to develop normal relationships with the rest of the world Hong Kong's value to her will diminish. At what point the desire to remove foreign rule from any part of China will overrule the service Hong Kong renders is anybody's guess.

In any event Great Britain's ninety-nine-year lease on the New Territories expires in 1997, just a little over twenty-six years from now. At that time China can legally repossess more than ninety-two percent of Hong Kong's present territory, an area on which the Colony relies for ninety-eight per cent of its water storage capacity. As one writer put it, if the lease for the New Territories is not renewed, "British Hong Kong would be reduced to thirty-three square miles of unviable city streets, smog, and island rock." No one can be sure what the situation will be twenty-six years from now, but circumstances under which renewal of the lease would be likely are difficult to imagine.

Yet life goes on here as if the future were assured. Skyscrapers continue to rise at an accelerating rate. In central Hong Kong recently waterfront lots, made by filling in part of the bay, sold at a higher price per front foot than the most expensive land in New York. A four-lane underwater tunnel has been begun linking Hong Kong Island to Kowloon. It will cost approximately U.S. \$50 million and is expected to be completed in 1972. More ambitious still are present plans for an underground railway through Hong Kong and Kowloon linked by a second cross-channel tunnel. It is estimated that this will cost about U.S. \$1 billion and will take fifteen years to complete. If the lease runs out eleven years later who will be left holding the bag? Those who finance such proposals have undoubtedly given very careful consideration as to how and when they can unload the risk on the general public.

In Hong Kong there are monthly meetings of a group called the Marco Polo Club. These meetings are for the announced purpose of promoting friendship between Peking's supporters in Hong Kong and non-Chinese residents. When Mao's Cultural Revolution in 1967 overflowed into Hong Kong in the form of riots and bombings the Marco Polo Club ceased to meet. This year the monthly meetings have resumed. The Far Eastern Economic Review in its issue of October 3, characterized them as "highly successful" and

then went on to remark, "The British, unlike the Americans, were included in this smile campaign." So far as we know Americans have not yet been invited.

BEN SEAVER

FRIENDS BULLETIN

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Yearly Meeting
August 8-12
Willamette University,
Salem, Oregon

David K. Bruner Memorial Minute

On January 14, 1971, our beloved Friend, David K. Bruner, died unexpectedly of a heart attack. A convinced Friend since 1941, David Bruner was a founding member of the Stockton Friends Meeting which later merged to become Delta Monthly Meeting. He has served the Meeting in many capacities, being its Recording Clerk at the time of his death. He was one of our most active representatives to College Park Quarterly Meeting and to Pacific Yearly Meeting, having carried major responsibilities in both bodies. In 1962-63 he and his wife, Catherine, served as "Friends in the Orient" under appointment by the Pacific Yearly Meeting.

David Bruner's concerns for peace and social justice were more than just academic. His service and outreach was widespread and persistent. He was a founding member of the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the Northern California F.C.L., on whose Executive Committee he served until his death. The American Friends Service Committee has numbered him among its most faithful supporters and participants. He was a member for many years on the Executive Committee of the Northern California Regional Office.

A memorial Meeting for Worship was held First Month 22, 1971, in Morris Chapel at the University of the Pacific under the care of Delta Monthly Meeting. Friends and associates in the University where he had served for twenty-three years as professor of Sociology, joined in remembrance of his life and service. A moving memorial was read by one of his closest colleagues. It read, in part:

Dave Bruner, the quiet man. Gentleman, scholar, humanist, social worker, friend. A compassionate advocate for unpopular causes long before most of us had even thought about them: peace, non-violence, jail and prison reform, child welfare, public welfare, decent housing, racial justice, health care, neighborhood centers, social legislation. . . . He was sought out as a state and national consultant in child welfare, public welfare, and juvenile delinquency.

But he was too modest and self-effacing to speak of his work him-

QUAKE FOR QUAKERS

On February 9 the communities of San Fernando and Sylmar, California, suffered a severe earthquake as you know. Friends will be interested to know that the San Fernando Friends Meetinghouse stood the shake well with just a few minor cracks. Everything flew out of cupboards and bookshelves, as in everyone's home in the area, but only breakable dishes were lost.

However, the block wall surrounding the Meetinghouse property was severely damaged, broken and tipped. Sixty-five Friends from five different Meetings of the Southern California Quarter gathered on February 27 to help take down the wall and clean the cement blocks for reuse. It was heart-warming to the San Fernando Friends to have that many Friends from nearby Meetings come to help on the Work Day.

For the most part Friends and attenders of San Fernando Meeting were fortunate in regard to their own homes. Two families had homes that were badly damaged, but the others had only minor damage. Electricity was restored the same day, by evening, but it was two or three weeks before the water and gas were available.

LOIS BAILEY

MEETINGS

Pima Meeting has approved use of the Meeting House by Tucson Draft Counseling Service for a series of six sessions. . . . Hayward Meeting has established round-the-clock counseling for persons who are troubled or distressed.

self. We knew of it through his faithful attendance and background work on committees and boards. When we seek to recall his flavor and influence, we realize how often his wry and wise humor and his broad-ranging knowledge and lively wisdom helped our deliberations and our work to proceed. Dedication, perseverance, commitment to his fellowman. Dave leaves a unique and unfillable hole.

The last words spoken at the Memorial Meeting seemed altogether fitting. The speaker said he could not bring himself to speak of David Bruner in the past tense. His presence is among us; his spirit compels us "to bring his root-nourishing work to fruition."

WALTON A. RAITT

Clerk,
Delta Meeting

. . . Looking Into Faces

From the windows of our airy flat we have a northern view of the harbor and Kowloon with rocky peaks rising behind it. On Hong Kong Island to the east is a stony hill with squatters' huts climbing almost to the top. We look at this view to be reminded of the inconceivable human need in the colony. Often we see there a large Nationalist flag flying. To the west are the crowded neighborhoods of Causeway Bay and Wanchai. On every roof of every building is a little hut, often without windows. Here, too, a family lives. On the roof children eat and play and women hang their wash. Further to the west are the office buildings and banks of the Central District and on the slopes of Victoria Peak, the seat of government.

It is when we descend to the street and look into faces that we get the view that I shall try to convey in my reports. One's first impression is that on these streets are crowds of young people in their teens and twenties. It is true that 56 per cent of the population is under twenty-five. Longer observation, however, reveals older men carrying loads on bamboo poles and women in the white or gray blouse and black trousers of the amah leading children.

The Cantonese are a communicative people. They take pleasure in talking as they take pleasure in the soft drink, fruit, and snack stalls along the street. One day I was abreast of a man who suddenly began to shout. He was not a hawker calling his wares. I looked around. Almost a block away was a man shouting back in friendly conversation.

Hard Yokes and Heavy Burdens

Many of the young women in that 56 per cent of the population are carrying babies in a soft, secure fabric carrier on the back. I have never seen a baby which was not round-faced and contented looking. Sometimes the young mother has a toddler in her arms as well as an infant on her back. Women also carry loads on construction sites. Their yokes have baskets full of sand or gravel. It is women, also, who sweep up debris in these building sites. In a beach-front village on Lantau, the largest island in the harbor, we watched a woman with yoke and baskets carrying gravel from the beach up to her dooryard where she had already accumulated a large pile of gravel. Near our flat a shop was

being remodelled. All one Sunday a woman chipped out bricks with a chisel. Since there is no free, compulsory education in the colony, many children are working although child labor is illegal up to the age of fourteen. Young boys carry loads on poles and little children sweep the pavement in front of food stalls or dust the fruit with feather dusters. While there is a great thirst for education, many parents making great sacrifices to pay school fees, these little children appear happy.

Resettlement

During our first weeks in Hong Kong we went on two tours conducted by Hong Kong Christian Service, an interdenominational church group which is responsible for many welfare programs including low-cost children's meals, a students' hostel, a vocational school, and a social service agency. One tour included a visit to a handicraft workshop on the roof of one of the buildings which comprise a resettlement estate. One of these "estates" houses over 53,000 persons. Those who have seen the AFSC film "Small Victories," have some understanding of what it means to house a large family in a ten-by-twelve-foot cubicle. At the Tau Hom Resettlement Estate we climbed seven flights of stairs to the roof where women were sewing and knitting articles for sale in retail shops. These workshops were neat and spacious, giving a bit of relief from the crowding below. As we climbed the damp, dark stairs and walked along balconies which give access to each family cubicle, we walked through puddles from recent rains and the inevitable refuse of people in cramped conditions. However, there were glimpses of some clean and tidy homes. One weeps to think what the housewife must do to accomplish this. Outside every cubicle was a tribute to the Chinese love of the green country, pots of flowering plants.

Portraits

In Tokyo, thanks to DeWitt Barnett's imaginative kindness, Professor Shinkichi Eto gave us an introductory card to M. H. Su, deputy director of the Universities Service Center. This Center is the brainchild of Franz Schumann of the University of California in Berkeley and is now endowed by the Carnegie Foundation. It provides research facilities and office space for scholars engaged in research on

Down to the Street . . .

China. Mr. Su is a Cantonese, that is, he is short and slender. He has the pear-shaped head I associate with the scholar. He received us courteously but his severe gravity as he showed us around the Center made us feel a bit stiff. As we were eating lunch, however, he told me of his four children, three of whom were studying or settled in the States and one in Germany. When he spoke of his family, a gentle smile relieved the severity. Again as he showed us his own office, he talked warmly of his two wall hangings, one a beautiful painting of a plant and a praying mantis and the other an example of elegant calligraphy, the last piece done by a famous Chinese calligrapher.

It was DeWitt Barnett, also, who brought about our meeting with S. V. Chan. Everyone, including his wife, calls him "S. J." A man in his thirties, he is the head of the Magistracy for the New Territories. He has made many contacts with AFSC beginning with an international students seminar when he was a student at the university. Our first meeting was at lunch at his house. The dark, boyish young man who welcomed us warmly by our first names spoke in enthusiastic tones with hearty laughter and hearty hand gestures. I wasn't surprised to hear that he was enjoying the study of Italian with an Italian priest. This attractive young Chinese with the Mediterranean personality has a somewhat high-pitched voice which rises to falsetto at moments of excitement. When I am tempted to generalize about Hong Kong Cantonese, I think of these two portraits.

Notes from My Journal October 31, 1970

At 8:00 a.m., S. V. and May Chan called for us to go to a foundation stone laying at a village in the New Territories which the AFSC had worked with from 1961 to 1968. In 1967 the AFSC had helped the village to build a community center and plan new homes. Now at last cement foundations were being poured and walls raised under the care of the Lutheran World Federation. The Lutheran Committee had invited Byron and Alida Allison and us to represent the AFSC at a ceremony at 10:00 o'clock when a foundation stone would be unveiled.

We had already seen some of the east coast of the New Territories. This time

we went up the western side through two sizable cities. Although we had a map, we found ourselves at the moment the ceremony was to begin, looking at it across a canal. A little boat chugging along the canal was commandeered by S. J. Chan. We left the Allison's microbus and crossed the canal in a moment. We quickly found seats with other Europeans and official Chinese in business suits facing a row of dignitaries against a backdrop of that red and gold and peacock-hued structure always raised for weddings and other celebrations as well as for openings of movies and new shops. The head of the Lutheran Federation presided, introducing a succession of men representing government, the American Consulate, which had contributed a half million in Hong Kong dollars from refugee resettlement funds, and the village. The village leader moved me. A stocky man of imperturbable dignity in an immaculate blue-gray blouse and trousers, he read his brief address slowly and laboriously. In all these speeches, the AFSC was referred to as the mover and dreamer of the early days of the Chung Hau village. We were all repeatedly welcomed and thanked. Finally, R. L. Flanagan of the U. S. Consulate drew the curtain which had covered the foundation stone. We took a picture of the stone which had Roman lettering on one side and Chinese characters on the other. All during the speech-making the villagers stood quietly holding their babies. Behind us a woman with the laborer's open-crowned flounced hat smilingly mixed cement. Then the boys and girls of the village served us soft drinks and cookies.

Next S. J. Chan took us to the only mental hospital in the colony. Adjoining it was a project in which the Hong Kong Friends Meeting and S. J. Chan take an active interest, the New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Project. This is a half-way house for a few of the patients who live together in a small dormitory and work on a farm. There was a fine pigpen with clean, healthy-looking white pigs and a pigeon house with a neatly-lettered sign: This pigeon house is a gift of the Hong Kong Society of Friends. S. J., being the volunteer treasurer of the project, was on cordial terms with the farmer in charge, who presented all of us with bunches of

“Feeling Out”

Friends World Committee for Consultation, the world organization of the Society, meets every three years for a week of business sessions. The Eleventh Triennial Meeting was held last summer, August 1-8, in Sigtuna, Sweden. PYM sent two of its FWCC representatives and several other PYM members were present in other capacities.

Nina Joy Lawrence reported 'way back in October on some of the dynamics of that gathering and some of her comments follow:

“While still in England before going to the Triennial Meeting, I was warned by a Swiss Friend that I must speak loudly, distinctly and slowly when talking with people who are listening in a foreign language. Over and over this warning came back to me at Sigtuna and since. Failure to heed it has become a symbol for me of the way differences are often treated amongst Friends. Sigtuna was an exercise in awareness of differences. Sometimes we were unaware and below-the-surface hurt, anger, dissatisfaction broke any possibility of understanding or action. Sometimes we became aware of differences and in making room for them were wonderfully rewarded.

“We don't think we have the barrier of language amongst American Friends, but we do have several kinds of Friends and this produces different languages as well as other differences of which we need to be aware and for which we need to make room. As a Friend from Oregon Yearly Meeting gave a prayer on Hiroshima Day I found myself having to translate into more familiar words.”

“One who had been building bridges toward Evangelical Friends all his life and tearing down those he had to ‘liberal’ Quakerism confessed he now felt the need to rebuild those bridges. He asked forgiveness of those he had hurt by his uncaring. Several days later another Friend, this time of the ‘liberal’ persuasion, realized she had never bothered to build bridges to Evangelical Friends, never cared to but now felt the need to do so.”

“Opening channels of communication between mission-oriented groups and service-oriented groups is in the tender, exploratory stage still. It was reported that it does not seem to be the time for a full-fledged conference of mission and service bodies. There is much listening and “feeling out” yet to be done in smaller groups.”

. . . FACES

greens as we left.

In nearby Yuen Long we had lunch. Then Byron Allison drove us to Lau Fau Shan on Deep Bay, the extreme northwest corner of the New Territories to which refugees swim from the Mainland, a distance of about three miles. Now as we stood on the shore, China was blue hills and green fields across the peaceful bay. As we watched the oyster fisherman, however, we remembered that just two weeks ago three fishermen were kidnapped and killed by men from the Mainland.

As we turned toward home, we came upon a Chinese movie company making a costume drama about an emperor in a jeweled sedan chair with his guards in red and gold ambushed by bandits in black. We watched the director rehearse the scene several times, amused at one of the ferocious bandits, a sword in each hand, who rushed in noisy agitation at the end

of the scene to get first aid for a scratched hand.

Our last stop was at the home of the district officer, a cheerful young Englishman, who provided tea while he played the marching song from China, “The East is Red,” on his stereo.

The road along the west coast was beautiful in the late afternoon light, but I was eager to get back to Yee Wo Street to absorb the many impressions of the day. New views need reflections as well as observation.

MADGE T. SEAVER

ERRANT FRIENDS

One way Friends can help hold down costs of publishing the Pacific Yearly Meeting's Friends Bulletin is to refrain from sending temporary changes of address, especially in the case of summer vacations. Costs (in time and money) include new Scriptomatic cards, typing time, resorting, record changes.

Visitation Among Friends

The four Goerlichs, Norman, Leanna, Bruce, age 12, and Peter, age 6, plus a cat and dog, left Mill Valley, California, early in June 1970 on a three-month trip across the United States and back through Canada. We planned to visit Friends Meetings along the way to share a concern which had developed and burned within us for the last several years. Norman had accumulated a sabbatical leave from his position as finance secretary for the American Friends Service Committee. Early in May, we organized an itinerary with the help of Friends General Conference and Friends World Committee. We sent out letters indicating our interest in visiting Friends and sharing and exploring our concern. About 85 per cent of the Meetings replied with invitations. We traveled 11,300 miles by station wagon and trailer, made contact with 34 Quaker groups, including Canadian Yearly Meeting, and talked directly with over 350 Friends. The Meetings visited represented a number of Yearly Meetings, including unprogrammed Meetings of Iowa Conservative Yearly Meeting and pastoral Meetings connected with Friends United Meeting and Evangelical Friends Alliance.

"For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope." (Eccl. 9:4)

We believe that there is an urgent need today to revitalize our Meetings so that our members and other seekers can find a central focus for individual and corporate spiritual growth within the Meeting community. Many of our people are torn apart because of our rapidly changing environment and the increased mobility of our population. In order to meet these needs, our Meetings need to return to the fundamental experience proposed in the first two Great Commandments. Only then, can the Meeting create a grounded community in which members can explore and develop their relationship to God and their fellow men.

There are three reasons why this message seems clear to us: first, we are a transplanted family who moved from Pennsylvania to California away from all that was familiar to us except the Society of Friends; second, our newly formed Marin Monthly Meeting has steadily experienced a heightened sense of corporate worship and fellowship—we have found

that, in a small but exciting way, we are beginning to create a sense of community which meets the needs of the members, and third, as a married couple, we took part in a marriage enrichment program in our Monthly Meeting and we were representatives from Pacific Yearly Meeting to Friends General Conference Marriage Retreat Training Program held at Pendle Hill (1969-70). These experiences added greatly to our knowledge of how groups of people can be helped to enter more fully into a loving relationship with each other through worship, sharing and listening.

A pattern developed as we corresponded with Meetings who invited us to visit. In almost all cases we stayed in camping areas as near the Meeting House as we could arrange. We used our own home-making facilities except when an invitation to meals was extended. Several times we "camped" in a Friend's driveway or on the Meeting House grounds when public areas were not available.

We often enjoyed a meal in a Friend's home or a potluck supper at the Meeting House, after which we gathered for discussion. The meeting was usually opened by a member of the host Meeting. We then presented our concern and encouraged the group to supplement, question or disagree with us. In several cases we conducted "Quaker Dialogues" to explore one technique for helping individuals in a group become better acquainted. We distributed many copies of the booklets "Creative Listening" by Ferner Nuhn and David Mace's "Marriage as Vocation."

Most Meetings recognized our concern as a legitimate topic for Friends to consider. When a session got to any depth or degree of honesty, both support for our concern and resistance to it were clearly stated. Regardless of the variety of Friends visited, or geographic location, the same general impressions existed, except that language patterns were different.

The common denominator to all Friends was their expectation, or testimony, of a personal experience with God. Differences diminished when we were sharing an authentic experience in which we felt that God was present to us, or when we were sharing a hope that we could grow toward loving our brothers as ourselves. When

. . . AMONG FRIENDS

we think of all of our visits at one time, there emerges a swinging line of vivid impressions of honest encounters between those who regard the worship of God as a private affair, and those who feel the need to reach out to their Meeting community for personal support and a sense of Communion which includes closer relationships with other Friends. At many sessions a dialogue developed among members on the state of community in their Meeting.

We know our family gained much more from our trip than the Meetings received from our visits. The impact of the summer upon our family has been a profound one. There was a comforting unity within the family regarding the conception, planning and carrying out of our project. As a married couple we supported each other with strong mutual agreement on this issue. There were times when we doubted our right to impose on others, but on the whole, we were confident of our direction.

Our children adjusted well to the trip. The twelve-year-old caught the "mission" flavor and, at times, made valuable contributions. We held a period of family

worship each day which included daily Bible readings. This helped greatly to keep our true focus before us and held our family in unity.

We wish to thank Dorothea Morse and the Religious Education Committee of Friends General Conference; Paul Goulding of the Friends General Conference staff, and Herbert Hadley and Robert Rumsey of Friends World Committee, for their encouragement, support and guidance.

We were greatly humbled by the experience of being warmly welcomed over and over again as we progressed on our journey. Friends were unusually warm and hospitable to us. We have left a line of dear kindred friends along the way who will be woven into our lives as long as we live. We feel that we hold portions of the wide family of Friends glowing within us. The composite experience of warmth, affirmation, struggle, disagreements and seeking together is now illuminating our lives. We are filled with loving gratitude to all those who took part in our Journey.

NORMAN and LEANNA GOERLICH

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